

Atlantic Development Board Act

and so on would have no difficulty in obtaining the finances required. I cannot subscribe to this view. We know, of course, that every dollar spent in this nation by the government must first of all be voted by the House of Commons. We know that ministers must ask the House of Commons for the money they need. We know that treasury board can occasionally be very difficult. So I am afraid that the \$100 million will perhaps just provide an opportunity to sidestep further pressure by ministers for funds they may want to have for expenditure in Atlantic Canada.

I should like to quote very briefly from a very fine editorial in the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* of June 7. It has this to say, which is in line with what I have been saying:

Would a parliament which had granted \$100 million to the Atlantic development board be all that willing to vote additional sums to the departments of transport, public works, justice, and the like, for regional programs recommended by the board? It might be extremely keen to do so, but we nevertheless fear that the most elementary knowledge of human nature suggests the contrary.

If a reluctance of this sort developed, the pressure on the one hundred million dollar fund would mount; more and more programs would be deemed those "for which satisfactory financial arrangements are not otherwise available." Soon, the need either to increase the fund, or to make sure that other departments and agencies were not being relieved of their due responsibilities to the region, would become apparent.

Even if the latter course were taken, who is there who can say with assurance now that, even under the best of conditions, \$100 million is sufficient for undertakings without the hope of public or private backing?

One factor I should like to discuss very briefly is the time limit which is put upon this board. If the government, in its wisdom, had suggested 20 years, I think they would have been closer to the mark. I am afraid that at the end of five or six years we will probably just be getting going on the projects which this board will recommend.

Then, there is the question of the additional members to the board. I understand the amendment would increase the members on the board from five to 11. I believe someone quoted Abraham Lincoln this afternoon, and the reference I am about to make may well be attributed to him. It is suggested that the best committee to get a job done is a committee of three, preferably with one member sick and one out of town. Then, something can be accomplished.

I should like to say a word about the present members of the board whose term of office is being changed. I feel that in Brigadier Wardell we have an excellent chairman. He has been in this country perhaps a shorter time than most of us but he has devoted a great deal of his time, energy and substance to raising the economic level of his adopted land. Then, there are men like Frank Sobey

and others, excellent men, who have already been successful in attracting to the board men of high calibre such as Mr. Weeks. I say that at this particular point a fair trial should be given to these men.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, our basic problem may be summed up in a very few words. Our basic problem in Atlantic Canada is the need for more industry. The whole problem it seems to me, in a nutshell, is the need for industry based on our own resources. I suppose that all of us have had a great many public buildings erected in our constituencies. I have always felt that I would rather have one plant that would employ 500 or 1,000 men located in my own constituency of York-Sunbury than all the public buildings that have been constructed there since confederation. I think of the small town of McAdam, which is a railroad junction. A few years ago it was a thriving community, but as a result of dieselization on the railroad, this community has been having difficulty. Here, they have the buildings located right on a rail line, they have an excellent labour force, and yet there is no industry. We cannot seem to get industry to locate in this particular area.

I feel that those of us who come here to this House of Commons have a job to do. It is a job that can be very simply expressed—to raise the economic level of our part of the country. This must always be our major objective as long as we are here. For that reason, I would ask the government to give very special consideration to any amendment which they may choose to make in this legislation concerning what could be a very fine agency for the uplifting of our maritime economy.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I intend to follow the admirable example set by the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Patterson), and confine my remarks to three or four minutes. I do however wish to express, on behalf of the members of this party, our support for this particular bill. It is a support that is rather less than enthusiastic, but still we do support it. During the resolution stage of this discussion, the Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill) became poetical and described this bill as being a big leap forward. His language reminded me of another famous but very different speaker, Mr. Mao Tse-tung who had a great leap forward in China.

This bill we are discussing does only two things. It increases the number of members on the board, and in so far as that enables the board to be more representative we approve of that. At the time this bill was before the last parliament, we approved of it. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, there is a serious deficiency and that is that all the 11